

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended): In combination:
a housing defining a housing interior;
a swash plate drive shaft disposed in said housing
interior and rotatably mounted relative to said housing about an
axis of rotation;

a swash plate mounted on said swash plate drive shaft
angularly disposed relative to said axis of rotation and located
in said housing interior, said swash plate having an outer swash
plate portion surrounding said swash plate drive shaft and
generally freely rotatably moveable about and relative to said
swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, said swash
plate comprising a bearing assembly and said outer swash plate
portion comprising an outer race of said bearing assembly, said
outer race having ~~a contact surface~~ spaced contact surfaces
disposed in opposition to one another; and

a plurality of spaced reciprocating members mounted for
reciprocatable axial movement relative to said housing, each of
said reciprocating members defining a cavity receiving the outer
race and simultaneously frictionally engaging the spaced contact
surface surfaces of said outer race, said spaced contact surfaces
upon rotation of said swash plate drive shaft exerting opposed
forces on said reciprocating members causing reciprocatable axial
movement of said reciprocating members but not preventing

rotation of said outer race about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, whereby the locations of contact between said contact surface surfaces and said reciprocating members change when said outer race rotates about said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing to reduce wear between said reciprocating members and said outer race.

2 (canceled)

3 (currently amended) : The combination according to Claim 1 wherein said outer race has a convexly curved outer peripheral wall ~~adjacent to~~ extending between said contact surface surfaces.

4 (canceled)

5 (original) : The combination according to Claim 3 wherein the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of the outer race comprises a segment of an imaginary sphere.

6 (canceled)

7 (canceled)

8 (previously presented) : The combination according to claim 11 wherein said two substantially planar contact surfaces are substantially parallel to one another.

9 (canceled)

10 (canceled)

11 (previously presented): In combination:

a housing defining a housing interior;

a swash plate drive shaft disposed in said housing interior and rotatably mounted relative to said housing about an axis of rotation;

a swash plate mounted on said swash plate drive shaft angularly disposed relative to said axis of rotation and located in said housing interior, said swash plate having an outer swash plate portion surrounding said swash plate drive shaft and generally freely rotatably moveable about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft, said outer swash plate portion having a contact surface; and

a plurality of spaced reciprocating members mounted for reciprocatable axial movement relative to said housing and engaging the contact surface of said outer swash plate portion, the locations of contact between said contact surface and said reciprocating members changing when said outer swash plate portion rotates about said swash plate drive shaft, said swash plate comprising a ball bearing assembly and said outer swash plate portion comprising an outer race of said ball bearing assembly having a convexly curved outer peripheral wall adjacent to said contact surface, said spaced reciprocating members having cavities receiving said outer race defined by concavely curved cavity walls engaged by the convexly curved outer peripheral wall

of said outer race, the concavely curved cavity walls and the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race conforming in shape, and said outer race having two substantially planar contact surfaces spaced from one another and extending inwardly from said convexly curved outer peripheral wall, said spaced reciprocating members including ball bearings projecting into said cavities and engaging said two substantially planar contact surfaces.

12 (new): In combination:

a housing defining a housing interior;
a swash plate drive shaft disposed in said housing interior and rotatably mounted relative to said housing about an axis of rotation;

a swash plate mounted on said swash plate drive shaft angularly disposed relative to said axis of rotation and located in said housing interior, said swash plate having an outer swash plate portion surrounding said swash plate drive shaft and generally freely rotatably moveable about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, said swash plate comprising a bearing assembly and said outer swash plate portion comprising an outer race of said bearing assembly, said outer race having a contact surface; and

a plurality of spaced reciprocating members mounted for reciprocatable axial movement relative to said housing and

frictionally engaging the contact surface of said outer race but not preventing rotation of said outer race about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, whereby the locations of contact between said contact surface and said reciprocating members change when said outer race rotates about said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing to reduce wear between said reciprocating members and said outer race, said outer race having a convexly curved outer peripheral wall adjacent to said contact surface, and said spaced reciprocating members having cavities receiving said outer race defined by concavely curved cavity walls engaged by the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race, the concavely curved cavity walls and the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race conforming in shape.

13 (new): In combination:

 a housing defining a housing interior;

 a swash plate drive shaft disposed in said housing interior and rotatably mounted relative to said housing about an axis of rotation;

 a swash plate mounted on said swash plate drive shaft angularly disposed relative to said axis of rotation and located in said housing interior, said swash plate having an outer swash plate portion surrounding said swash plate drive shaft and generally freely rotatably moveable about and relative to said

swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, said swash plate comprising a bearing assembly and said outer swash plate portion comprising an outer race of said bearing assembly, said outer race having a contact surface; and

a plurality of spaced reciprocating members mounted for reciprocatable axial movement relative to said housing and frictionally engaging the contact surface of said outer race but not preventing rotation of said outer race about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, whereby the locations of contact between said contact surface and said reciprocating members change when said outer race rotates about said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing to reduce wear between said reciprocating members and said outer race, said outer race having a convexly curved outer peripheral wall adjacent to said contact surface, the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of the outer race comprising a segment of an imaginary sphere, and said outer race having a central diametric axis, the axis of rotation of said swash plate drive shaft being intersected by the central diametric axis of said outer race substantially at the center of said imaginary sphere.